DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.C. DATE 8/10/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

EXCISE B-1 E.O.

(4)

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ACTION NEA-11
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 OCS-06 CA-01 SSO-00 I-03 PPT-01
SY-05 SYE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /038 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3110
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 22159
E.O. 12065: GDS 11 05/86 (BROWN, WILLIAM) OR M
TAGS: CASC, SOCI, CPAS, IS
SUBJECT: BURG TORPEDOES GLASS COMMITTEE REPORT
ON BLACK HEBREWS
REF: TEL AVIV 10496

[redacted] B-1 E.O.

THE TEXT OF STATEMENT AS IT APPEARS IN THE
JERUSALEM POST:
2. (U) BEGIN TEXT INTERIOR MINISTER YOSEF
BURG TOLD THE KNESSET YESTERDAY THAT HE DOES NOT
ACCEPT THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE BLACK
HEBREWS RECOMMENDED BY THE GLASS COMMITTEE,
NAMELY, TO GRANT THEM LEGAL STATUS AND ENABLE
THEM TO ESTABLISH A SETTLEMENT IN THE NEGEV.
BURG WAS REPLYING TO MOTIONS FOR THE AGENDA BY TAMAR ESHEL
(ALIGNMENT) AND DAVID GLASS (NATIONAL RELIGIOUS
PARTY), WHO HEADED THE COMMITTEE.
BURG MOVED THAT THE MOTIONS BE REFERRED TO THE

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NTERIOR COMMITTEE. BUT WALKED OUT OF THE HAMBER BEFORE THE VOTE, WHICH RESULTED IN A 6-26 TIE. PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, THIS S THE SAME AS IF THERE HAD BEEN A MAJORITY GAINST THE MOTIONS: THEY WERE STRUCK FROM THE GENDA.

SHEL ARGUED THAT THE GLASS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION PPEARED TO BE THE LESSER EVIL. NOTHING WOULD BE ORE HARMFUL TO ISRAEL THAN TO EXPEL THE BLACK EBREWS: THIS WOULD EXACERBATE BLACK-JEWISH ELATIONS IN THE U.S. AND MIGHT DRIVE THE SECT'S EMBERS TO MASS SUICIDE A LA JONESTOWN.

LASS, LIKE ESHEL, FAULTED BURG FOR FAILING TO CT ON THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT WHICH WAS SUBMITTED IVE MONTHS AGO. DESPITE HIS PROMISE TO RANSMIT THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

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N SHORT ORDER.

NY FURTHER DELAY WOULD CONSTITUTE ANOTHER "LAYER" N THE SIN OF OMISSION OF WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AS BEEN GUILTY FOR THE PAST 11 YEARS WITH RESPECT O THE BLACK HEBREWS. DELAY WOULD ALSO PROVOKE IOLENCE BETWEEN JEWS AND BLACK HEBREWS IN IMONA, ARAD AND MITZPEH RAMON, GLASS SAID.

E SAID THAT DEPORTING THE BLACK HEBREWS (OF WHOM HERE ARE SOME 1,500 IN ISRAEL, ACCORDING TO THE OMMITTEE'S REPORT , WOULD RESULT IN GRAVE ONSEQUENCES. NEVERTHELESS, EVEN THIS SOLUTION WAS EFERABLE TO A CONTINUATION OF THE STATUS QUO.

LASS DENOUNCED WHAT HE CALLED A DELIBERATE OLICY OF THE POLICE AND THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE TO MAKE HINGS DIFFICULT FOR THE SECT S MEMBERS.

URG BEGAN HIS REPLY WITH A SWIPE AT GLASS. HAVING NDERTAKEN TO SUBMIT A REPORT IN TWO MONTHS' TIME, LASS HAD ACTUALLY TAKEN 20 MONTHS, BURG SAID.

E HE SHOULD BE THE LAST PERSON TO COMPLAIN ABOUT URG'S FAILURE TO ACT MORE QUICKLY.

F THERE HAD BEEN A SIN OF OMISSION, BURG SAID, IT AS NOT OF THIS GOVERNMENT, BUT OF ALL ISRAEL GOVERNMENTS INCE 1969, WHEN THE FIRST GROUP OF BLACK EBREWS SETTLED IN ISRAEL.

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:CTION NEA-11
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION Ø2 OF Ø2 TEL AVIV 2Ø159
BURG SAID THAT FROM LISTENING TO THE TWO PREVIOUS
SPEECHES ONE MIGHT THINK THAT THE BLACK HEBREWS CAME
HERE IN ALL INNOCENCE TO SETTLE PEACEFULLY. IN
FACT, THEY CAME WITH FORGED DOCUMENTS, MASQUERADING
AS PILGRIMS, AND HAVE BEEN INFILTRATING EVER SINCE.
HE QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM REPORTS IN U.S.
NEWSPAPERS, FILLED WITH LIBELOUS CANARDS
AGAINST ISRAEL AND EXPRESSING OUTRIGHT HOSTILITY AND
INCITEMENT INSPIRED BY THE SECT.
ONE REPORT IN A BALTIMORE NEWSPAPER SPOKE OF THE
GROUP'S HOPE OF MOVING TWO MILLION BLACKS TO
ISRAEL AND EXPELLING THE JEWS
FROM THE COUNTRY. ONE OF THE SECT'S INTERNAL
PUBLICATIONS HAD RUN A PHOTOGRAPH OF MENAHEM
BEGIN WITH THE CAPTION, "THE SPIRIT OF HITLER",
BURG SAID.
THAT RIGHT, THEN, DID THE SECT HAVE TO COMPLAIN
OF POOR HOUSING OR EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS, BURG
ASKED. "NO ONE INVITED THEM HERE."
ADOPTING THE GLASS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD
BE AWARDING THE SECT "A PRIZE FOR INFILTRATION",
BURG SAID. NEVERTHELESS, HE MOVED THAT THE
MOTIONS BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE.
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GOV SHILANSKY (LIKUD-HERUT) AND MOSHE SHAMIR (TEHIYA) THEN
MOVED THAT THE MOTIONS BE STRUCK FROM THE AGENDA.
VOTING IN FAVOUR OF REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE WERE
ALL THE OPPOSITION FACTIONS EXCEPT TEHIYA, JOINED
BY ONLY THREE COALITION MEMBERS: GLASS HIMSELF AND
YITZHAK PERETZ AND ZAIMAN SHOVAL (BOTH LIKUD-RAFI).
THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE COALITION JOINED BY
TEHIYA, VOTED AGAINST AND TIED WITH THOSE
IN FAVOUR.
DAVID LANDAU ADDS FROM DIMONA:
THE MAYOR OF DIMONA, ALIGNMENT MK JACQUES AMIR,
LAST NIGHT THREATENED TO BRING ALL 8ØØ BLACK
HEBREWS LIVING IN MY CITY UP TO JERUSALEM TO SQUAT
OUTSIDE THE KNESSET NEXT WEEK."

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PEAKING TO THE JERUSALEM POST, AMIR SAID THAT THE
PEOPLE OF DIMONA FEEL THEMSELVES BETRAYED AND
HEATED BY THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.
URG HAD BEEN PROCRASTINATING WHILE AMIR AND OTHER
OCAL LEADERS, TOGETHER WITH THE MINISTRY OF
CUSING, HAD BEEN TRYING TO FIND AN EQUITABLE
OLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE BLACK HEBREWS, HE
AID.
HE MAYOR SAID THAT HE ENTIRELY ENDORSED THE GLASS
OMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND THAT BURG'S
EJECTION OF THEM HAD COME AS A TOTALLY UNEXPECTED
HOCK TO HIM AND HIS CONSTITUENTS. END TEXT. LEWIS
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